



## PIEDMONT ICT OBSERVATORY

### The Piedmont regional DESI index

#### WHO ARE WE?

The origin of Piedmont ICT Observatory goes back to 2004, when a research unit was set up to provide scientific support to the strategic planning of the Piedmont Region in the fields of the information and communication technologies. We focus on the analysis of technological trends, the evaluation of public policies and the monitoring of the most interesting regional, national and international case studies in the technology innovation field.

In our 15-years' experience our research portfolio has grown, addressing the emerging technologies and the increasing demand for public digital services. Our main achievements are:

- Regional and local indexes: DESI index, Regional Innovation Scoreboard, ICityRate, and many others
- Surveys collection and analysis: ICT in the public sector, quality of public digital services
- Monitoring of the ICT companies
- Analysis of ICT skills and usage expressed by the society (both companies and people)
- Coordination and Monitoring of local IT initiatives: WI-PIE Programme, Piedmont Digital Agenda, Municipal data for/from Municipalities (IoComune).

Our experience in setting up a Digital Observatory and in monitoring the digitalization of a territory was exploited in a Interreg IVC EU—funded project (the ONE project).

#### WHY A REGIONAL DESI INDEX?

The Digital Economy and Society Index measures the digital performance and competitiveness of European member states. The data and the indicators included in the index are mostly collected by the European Commission services (DG CONNECT, Eurostat), usually coming directly from the national institutes of statistics.

Four years ago, we started following this track, collecting regional data mainly from the Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT) and from the databases of Piedmont Region. We found out that a regional DESI index is possible and valuable for the Italian context, because our country shows huge differences in respect to the dimensions measured by the DESI Index. The Piedmont regional DESI Index gives the opportunity to measure the progress of our Region towards a digital economy and society, ranking Piedmont compared to Italy and the other European countries.

#### HOW TO DO IT?

Our close relationship with the Italian National Institute of Statistics, and its regional unit, and the availability of open data, has been crucial for the success of our analysis: in 2018 we were able to calculate 80% of the DESI indicators at regional level. Especially for the connectivity dimension, we were even able to collect data at municipal level, and we used it to measure digital divide between Piedmont municipalities.

Lately, the Digital Innovation Observatories of Polytechnic of Milan and the Agency for Digital Italy (AgID), expressed their interest into our methodology. We are collaborating with them in order to refine our municipal analysis and for the definition of new common standards in the analysis of local ICT-related data.